

services provided to clients. These supports are threatened by the new welfare rules which, among other things, would disqualify people in serious training sessions from public support. David Roth, the Executive Director of Cleveland Works, could not attend today, but submitted testimony. I will read excerpts from his lengthy statement.

One of the main reasons new federal, state, and local welfare legislation—welfare reform—is fundamentally flawed is because there is no longer any priority, let alone resources, for job training that can meet both employers' workforce development needs and people's needs to be gainfully employed. At the core of Cleveland Works' philosophy and mission is the fundamental belief that full-time employment with health benefits is the only way for a person and his/her family to achieve a decent standard of living. A comprehensive and unique array of integrated family programs and job related support services help participants leap the many hurdles and barriers which stand in the way of meaningful employment, good education, decent housing and adequate health care. Cleveland Works is an attempt to successfully remove a family's long-term welfare dependency by providing heads of households on public assistance with full-time jobs that provide employer-paid family health benefits and an hourly wage that truly allows families to achieve a good quality of life. Cleveland Works handles only job openings that are full-time, offer employer-paid family health benefits, and come with an average hourly wage high enough to remove a family from the welfare rolls, and much more importantly, from the vicious cycle of poverty. To us, it is a mystery how any organization can effectively move large numbers of welfare recipients into full-time work without on-site family support programs, particularly legal services and family development services. In the end, people cannot permanently escape poverty without attorneys and doctors, counselors and advocates, teachers and Cleveland Works trainers working for them. Developing and maintaining these essential services, is a small investment for the great reward of thousands of families escaping poverty and becoming hard working, productive, taxpaying citizens. While endorsing Head Start programs, we ought to provide the resources to enable child care and education to be year-round and last the entire day, thereby being worker and family friendly. The more we ignore the truth that low income people want to work and only request equal opportunity to become excellent employees, the more we will continue to perpetuate an underclass whose stagnation and deprivation will adversely affect us all. How can we deceive ourselves into thinking people can somehow magically rise out of poverty when we know they do not have the most potent weapon—skills and abilities which enable them to apply their education and be paid for their labor? How do we justify drastic reductions in job training funding when we know for employers to successfully compete they require a better skilled, educated employee? We can continue fighting illiteracy, drugs, broken homes, hunger, homelessness, domestic violence and mental illness, but still never succeed until we face the stark reality that employment is the core absolute to a family's ability to successfully control and shape a better, brighter future. Low-income people cannot be convinced or simply counseled into becoming more responsible, secure, honest, trustworthy, healthy citizens unless we effectively enable them to seize meaningful opportunities to job training programs. There will be no need to throw billions of dollars towards research and academic surveys if agencies designed to address these problems

and provide essential services to the poor are adequately funded and held accountable for their performance. America is unique among advanced industrial nations in its tolerance of unequal access to health care, education and employment on which not the quality of life, but life itself, depends. We are currently wrestling with how to best accomplish welfare reform, yet the ingredients for successful job training are non-existent because of the overwhelming legislative and political emphasis and funding directed at moving people off welfare, rather than effectively training them to meet employers' needs so they can become, and remain, tax paying, law abiding citizens. It is unconscionable that while employers are in such great need of employees, and people are in such great need of employment, there is no coordinated or concentrated effort to solve these problems.

One of the things that is disheartening to us in Cleveland Jobs with Justice and the Cleveland area Workers' Rights Board is that even as the Administration holds Cleveland Works up as an example, it promulgates laws and regulations that under cut the agency's programs.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST WITHERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ernest C. Withers, Sr. as an activist who occupies a significant place in the annals of the Civil Rights Movement and the history of Memphis, Tennessee.

As a native Memphian, Mr. Withers is respected throughout the community for his contributions toward the establishment and advancement of equality. As a veteran of World War II, he returned to Memphis to become one of the nine African-American men chosen as the first black police officers for the city in 1948. After several years, he left this job to embark full time in a profession that he felt could more effectively bolster social change in Memphis and the nation.

Mr. Ernest Withers is best known for his profession and remarkable career as one of the nation's premier photo journalists. As a photographer, he photographed and chronicled the history-making people and events of the Civil Rights Movement of the Sixties and focused the attention of the nation on this momentous era of human history. The powerful images that he captured have been widely showcased in national publications including Life, Newsweek, and Time. The dynamic individuals of the time that he visually captured included Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, Bayard Rustin, Rosa Parks, and Whitney Young.

Subsequent to the movement, Mr. Withers remained prolific, capturing memorable events and people including President Richard Nixon, Jackie Robinson, Elvis Presley and B. B. King on film. In conjunction with his son, the late State Representative Teddy Withers, Mr. Ernest Withers made several trips to Africa in efforts to further establish Memphis as an international hub for trade. His work as a social documentalist has been recognized and featured by many museums and institutions including the Massachusetts College of Art, the

Atlanta High Museum of Art, Vanderbilt University, and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. Now in his seventies, Mr. Ernest Withers remains active, working out of his own studio in Memphis where he continues to captivate us with his innovative style and visual perspectives.

For his contributions and commitment to community, Mr. Speaker, I would ask you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join with me in honoring this dynamic participant in and recorder of history, Mr. Ernest C. Withers, Sr.

TRIBUTE TO LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) for its goal to call America's youth to their highest personal standard of excellence and their greatest potential for leadership.

To maintain greatness as a nation, we must strive for excellence as individuals. And the standard of excellence is largely set by our nation's leaders—leaders in politics, business, the media, and in our pulpits.

Training programs that encourage youth to achieve their highest possible standard of excellence are setting the necessary foundations for tomorrow's leaders.

The Leadership Training Institute originated in Arkansas. But through its staff, youth participants, and donors, reaches across many states, including my home state of Oklahoma. LTI strives to impart to America's youth the common virtues in our Nation's great leaders and the source and continuity of those virtues over the course of our history. Thomas Jefferson recognized, "God who gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that those liberties are the gift of God?"

The programs and activities of LTI are designed to prepare youth to face the moral challenges of our day with a foundation that is scientifically reasoned and replete with experiences of America's greatest leaders. This training, which is rich in Biblical perspectives, plays an important role in preparing today's youth to set standards of excellence for themselves and others in their homes, schools, communities, and government.

TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.J. Res. 111, the Tax Limitations Constitutional Amendment that would require a two-thirds majority vote in the House and the Senate to pass any bill increasing internal Federal revenues, except in time of war or military conflict.

It saddens me deeply that we are once again considering a bill so flawed, that similar